

CLAIMS

1. A method of identifying an edge switch of a packet - based communication network, said edge switch having a port to which a specified user is connected, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) sending a unicast request packet from a policy server to the specified user, the unicast request packet including destination address data and a selected identification code;

(b) detecting said selected identification code at said port;

(c) diverting the packet to a management agent for the switch; and

(d) returning to the server an identification of the switch and said user

2. A method according to claim 1 and including:

causing said specified user to reply to said unicast request packet by means of a reply packet including said identification code; and

detecting at said edge switch the identification code in said reply packet.

ABSTRACT

5 A method of identifying an edge switch of a packet - based communication network, the edge
switch having a port to which a specified user is connected comprises (a) sending a unicast
request packet from a policy server to the specified user, the unicast request packet including
destination address data and a selected identification code; (b) detecting the selected
10 identification code at said port; (c) diverting the packet to a management agent for the switch;
and (d) returning to the server an identification of the switch and the user

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